

Yemen



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History of conflicts

- 1839, the British occupied the port of Aden & set a zone of loose alliances with neighboring tribes to act as a buffer
- 1918 North Yemen became independent from the Ottoman Empire
- In 1962 North Yemen became a republic

History of conflicts

- 1967, the British withdraw from Aden & area becomes South Yemen
- Socialist party gains control of South Yemen with the covert assistance of Britain
- 1970 South Yemen becomes People's Democratic Republic of Yemen
- 1990 unification

- Yemen's supports Iraq during the 1990–91 Gulf War: Saudi Arabia expells almost 1 million Yemeni workers, and the U.S., Saudi Arabia and Kuwait significantly reduce economic aid
- 1994 civil war (lasted about 6 weeks)
 - Still strong support in the south for independence



- June 2004 Civil war (Sa'dah insurgency)
- In addition to facing uprisings in both the south and north, Yemen faces a serious refugee problem further burdening a economy that collapsed after the first Gulf war.

- Tens of thousands of Somalis and Ethiopians refugees have fled to Yemen in the past few years.
- More than 100,000 people in just the past two years.

Demographics

- Population 22.4 million
- 52% Under 18 (11,729,000)
- 46% under 15 (10,304,000)
- 37% between 6-18(7,989,000)
- 59% of between 6-15 attend school (2,847,941)

Demographics

- Unemployment around 35%
 - among university graduates 50+%50%
- 28% of population urbanized
- 17% Average annual rate of inflation

Demographics

- Yemen remains the poorest Arab country
 - 45% below poverty line (less than \$2 a day)
- Yemen has the highest illiteracy level in the region
 - Overall: 41-46% (15 yrs and older)
 - Male: 27-38.0%
 - Female: 65-74%

Higher Education in Yemen

- 7 public & 5-7 private
- 3 CCs
- Yemen has one of the lowest attendance rates for higher education in the MENA region.

purpose

- to respond to the growing demand for middle-level personnel in the country's labor force
- to respond to both the growing social demand for education
- to respond the specific needs for middle-level occupational skills in the labor market to support industrial and economic development in Yemen

Inadequate needs assessment

- A failure on our part was not carefully evaluating the needs of the country by carefully examining the
 - culture,
 - economy,
 - existing higher and lower educational systems,
 - available human and fiscal resources.

- This led to the assumption that the American model of community college could simply be transplanted in Yemen much like a coffee plant shrub was transplanted from Yemen centuries earlier.

American model vs. third world



Access vs. efficiency

- American CCs are committed to open-door admissions
- This is costly
- Yemen cannot afford to waste a single seat by giving it to a marginal or underprepared student

Developmental education

- One of the basic missions of the American CC
- Once again costly
- Yemen lacks needed resources
 - Faculty
 - Lack training
 - Poor salaries deter recruitment
 - Classroom space

Articulation

- Yemen universities will not recognize the two-year colleges
- Treat them like they were secondary education institutions.

Faculty

- Too few potential faculty members
- Poorly educated teachers
- Little are no pedagogical knowledge—stand in deliver—final exam
- Poorly paid
- Socialist influence on hiring/firing
- Corruption
- Around 30 Sent to the U.S.
 - Most didn't return to teach in the CC

Real Problems



Misfit of American Curricula

- Attempt to replicate U.S. curricula with an insufficient understanding of local circumstances.
- Based on an inadequate needs assessment done from afar.

Inadequate needs assessment

- The needs assessment consisted of counting entries in the yellow pages of the phone book.
- The following are 3 examples of how the inadequate needs assessment led
 - Auto repair
 - Tourism
 - Computer Technology

Inadequate needs assessment of economy

- Auto repair—there were a large number of auto repair shops listed in the yellow pages.
- However, few are more than pits in the ground (lacking even a physical structure).
- The vast majority of vehicles were 10 to 20 years old in 1998
- The curriculum was based on modern American vehicles with electronic components not found in older vehicles.

Inadequate needs assessment local education

- Computer Technology
- Lack of faculty
- Texts books were in English
- Few people owned computers
- Antiquated equipment
 - Internet
 - Expensive
 - Slow
 - undependable



Inadequate needs assessment--culture

- Tourism
- Aden has some of the most pristine beaches in the world.
- However, they are not available to families—men & women cannot be present at the same time.
- However, the tourism program was not offered in Aden.

Anticipate Problems

- Anticipate Problems
- Lack of knowledge leadership
- Lack of policy & procedures